(k) Assistance to Handloom Export Promotion Council under the MDA Scheme for market promotion activities.

Revival of Handloom and Powerloom Sectors

†1172. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether handloom and powerloom sector is on the verge of closure in the country specially in Maharashtra;

(b) whether due to the closure of handloom and powerloom in those areas, the traditional weavers are facing financial crunch; and

(c) if so, the measures have been taken by Government for the revival of handloom and powerloom industry in Vidarbha region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Textiles has not received any report from any State Government stating that the handloom and powerloom units are on the verge of closure.

(c) The Government of India is implementing the following Schemes for the overall development of the handloom sector and for the welfare of handloom weavers throughtout the country including in Maharashtra:-

(1) Design Development & Training Programme

(2) Marketing Promotion Programme

(3) Mill Gate Price Scheme

(4) Deen Dayal Hathkarga Prothsahan Yojana

(5) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme

(6) Weavers Welfare Scheme

(7) Handloom Export Scheme

(8) Implementation of Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985

(9) Scheme for Reimbursement of CENVAT on Hank Yarn.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Besides, 24 Weavers Service Centres are setup in different parts of the country including one each in Mumbai and Nagpur, which provide design guidance, training and technical inputs to the handloom weavers.

As far as powerloom sector is concerned. Government has taken following initiatives to facilitate growth of the powerloom industry:-

(i) A programme for induction of 50,000 shuttle-less and for 2.50 lakh semi-automatic and automatic looms in the decentralized powerloom sector has been announced. Incentives are available under the Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme where the powerloom owner can either avail 12% upfront Capital linked subsidy or reduce cost of borrowing the capital by interest reimbursement of 5%.

(ii) Forty-four Powerloom Service Centres, established to provide service, such as designs, training, skill up-gradation and the testing facilities to the powerloom weavers.

(iii) Seventeen Computer aided Design Centres in Powerloom Service Centres have been established to facilitate the creation of new designs and improve design and production.

(iv) Powerloom Export Entitlement (PEE) quota has been provided to encourage exports of powerloom cloth; and

(v) Under the Special 'Powerloom Package', a Group Insurance Scheme is being implemented to provide cover to the powerloom workers against death, accident and disability; and a 'Group Workshed Scheme' has been approved to create a better working environment and obtain higher productivity.

Rapid development of textile industry

†1173. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for rapid development of textile

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.